

Appl. No. 10/509,153
Amdt. dated March 13, 2007
Reply to Office action of December 14, 2006

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

1. Regarding your objections to the abstract and the specification, the Applicant has amended the same according to your comments.
2. Regarding your objections to Claims 1, 2, 4-6, the Applicant has amended the same according to your comments.
3. Regarding your rejections to Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, the Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the scope of the relevant claims.
4. Regarding your rejections to Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102, the Applicant's comments are as follows:
 - (a) The Applicant agrees with your comments that the handle (12), the keeper plate (14) and the actuator button (78) disclosed in Davis is comparable to the sheath body (1), the blade support (2) and the push button (3) of the present application respectively.
 - (b) As for the positioning element (4) and the positioning groove (6) of the subject application, the Applicant considers them comparable to the latch shoulders (77/79) and detent notches (30/34/38) respectively instead of the stub (76) and the slot (56) as disclosed in Davis. In the present application, the push button (3) is directly connected with the positioning element (4) so that when the user wishes to pull out the knife from the sheath body, the user pushes the push button (3) upwards to remove the positioning element (4) from the positioning groove (6) in order to allow the blade support to be pulled towards the outer end of the sheath body. Similarly, in Davis, the actuator button (78) is also directly connected with the latch shoulders (77/79) so that when the user wishes to push out the cutter blade from the "cutter body", the user pushes the actuator button (78) downwards to remove the latch shoulders (77/79) from the detent notches (30/34/38) in order to allow the keeper plate (14) to be pushed towards the "outer end" of the "cutter body". Although the mechanism of Davis is not exactly the same as that of the Applicant, the Applicant is agreeable to your comments that the positioning element (4) and the positioning groove (6) of the subject application has been described in Davis.
 - (c) The Applicant also agrees with your comments that the push button (3) and the first reset spring (5) of the subject invention comparable to the actuator button (78) and the spring arm (58) as disclosed in Davis.
 - (d) Regarding the positioning channel (9), the positioning lobe (10), the trapezoidal piece (21) and the second reset spring (51), the Applicant is of the view that they are not

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anticipated by Davis. To illustrate the structure of the present invention clearly, please refer to the attached Fig. 1 and Fig. 7 as marked up with additional reference numbers in accordance with the description hereinafter. As illustrated in Fig. 1 as attached, the trapezoidal piece (21) is in trapezoid shape with a bottom side (211), a top side (212), a first slanted side (213) and a second slanted side (214). The bottom side (211) which is parallel to the top side (212) is shorter than the top side. The first slanted side (213) is disposed further away from an inner end of the blade support (2). The second slanted side (214) is disposed nearer to the inner end of the blade support (2). On the lower side of the trapezoidal piece (21) a second reset spring (51) is disposed. The second reset spring (51) is a torsion spring with a first leg (511) and a second leg (512). The first leg (511) is fixed in a lower end of the sheath body (1). The second leg (512) of the second reset spring (51) is in an inverted V shape skewed towards an outer end of the sheath body (1) so that the outer end of the second leg (512) bends downwards, and the second leg (512) is fixed on an inner side of the sheath body (1). As illustrated in Fig. 7, the second slanted side (214) of the trapezoidal piece (21) substantially abuts against the outer end of the second leg (512) when the blade support (2) is at a position when the positioning lobe (10) reaches the outer end of the positioning channel (9). As illustrated in Fig. 7, as the user is pulling the knife out of the sheath body (1), the blade support (2) is also being pulled outward with the knife. As the blade support (2) moves outward, the blade support (2) tilts downwards when the second slanted side (214) reaches the outer end of the second leg (512) of the second reset spring (51). As the blade support (2) tilts downwards, the positioning lobe (10) reaches the outer end of the positioning channel (9) and so the blade support (2) is prevented from being further pulled out or tilted downwards. The second reset spring (51) of the present invention cooperates with the trapezoidal piece (51) to enable the blade support (2) to tilt downward as it is moved towards the outer end of the sheath body (1). The Applicant has amended the claims to reflect the above clarifications. In contrast, the torsion spring (80) in Davis only acts to control the deflection of the guard (18), and the keeper plate (14) in Davis can only be horizontally moved along the slide pocket (P). The structure and operation of the trapezoidal piece (21) and the second reset spring (51) of the present invention are totally different from those as described in Davis, and so they cannot be anticipated by Davis and should be considered novel and inventive. The Applicant therefore sincerely requests you to withdraw your rejection against Claim 1 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 2 to 6.

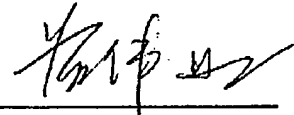
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Attachment: reference drawing sheet

Respectfully submitted,

By Applicant:


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